



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



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26 MARCH 1966

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1. South Vietnam

Buddhist and student agitation goes on despite the concessions offered by the ruling Directorate yesterday.

There was a brief rally and march in Saigon today on the theme of ending military rule and restoring civilian government. "Struggle groups" in the northern city of Hué seized on an incident in which a US Marine tore down an anti-American poster to keep matters heated up.

Today's agitation may not represent a final Buddhist response to the olive branch proffered by Ky. That could come tomorrow after Buddhist leaders meet in Saigon.

The attitude of the Catholics and other groups to all this is not clear, although one Catholic leader did today publicly demand a return to civilian rule.

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2. Communist China

The Chinese are making their annual spring grain-buying tours and are facing hard times. Two of their major Free World suppliers, Argentina and Australia, lack large exportable surpluses this year. Again in need of at least six million tons, the Chinese will have to buy more from Canada and from marginal suppliers such as Mexico and France.

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3. North Vietnam

A careful review of world shipping in February shows that only 12 ships flying the flags of non-Communist countries visited North Vietnamese ports, as against 18 in January and a 1965 monthly average of 21. All but one of the 12 were Hong Kong - owned, British-flag ships.

The decline probably resulted from a series of US approaches on the matter. As a result, seaborne imports in February were the lowest in volume since last September.

The number of Communist-flag vessels putting in at North Vietnamese ports was slightly above last year's monthly average.

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4. Rhodesia

There is good reason for optimism in Salisbury over the prospects for marketing Rhodesia's vital tobacco crop this spring. A market survey in South Africa shows that country's intention to increase tobacco purchases from Rhodesia almost threefold over last year.

Although tobacco auctioning will be in secret this year in Rhodesia, there is already good evidence of high demand in the world market for the country's quality product.

5. Cyprus

The semiannual rotation of the Turkish contingent on Cyprus is due next week and, as usual on these occasions, the Turks are alert for trouble. The US

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6. Ecuador

The inept military junta is cracking down hard, and yesterday's violence is sure to provoke more trouble.

Two students are reported to have been killed, and many were injured resisting the army takeover of the university in Quito last night. Student groups, for their own purposes, have been supporting a businessmen's strike in the port city of Guayaquil, protesting the government's needed increases in import duties.

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7. Dominican Republic

Bosch's political party opens its convention in two weeks, and it is still anyone's guess whether it will name Bosch or someone else as its presidential candidate. Bosch will himself make the decision and will probably leave the door open for an electoral boycott should he later decide this tactic is to his advantage.

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